

Docket file
50-219



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

January 22, 1996

Mr. Michael B. Roche
Vice President and Director
GPU Nuclear Corporation
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
P.O. Box 388
Forked River, NJ 08731

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING PERFORMANCE OF GATE VALVES UNDER BLOWDOWN CONDITIONS - OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION (TAC NO. M93315)

Dear Mr. Roche:

The staff is requesting that GPU Nuclear Corporation (GPUN) submit additional information concerning your proposal of August 11, 1995, to reduce the sampling of the weld population in the reactor water clean up (RWCU) system outside the second isolation valve at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station as part of their augmented inservice inspection (ISI) program. It should be noted that part of the NRC's basis for allowing reduced weld inspections downstream of the second isolation valve is confidence that the isolation valves will be capable of isolating under blowdown conditions. The staff's review of Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) Topical Report TR-103237, "EPRI MOV Performance Prediction Program," and associated test data indicates that certain gate valves may be damaged if they must operate under blowdown conditions. The staff discussed its concerns with GPUN during a conference call on December 4, 1995.

One of the criteria in GPUN's proposal involved the successful completion of the Generic Letter (GL) 89-10 program. Overall, GPUN's GL 89-10 program appeared to be on schedule for closure and the valve factors and torque switch settings appeared to be adequately justified. One remaining issue involved GPUN's actions in response to EPRI's information to prevent potential damage to isolation valves that may be required to operate under blowdown conditions and EPRI's recommendations concerning sharp edges and clearances for gate valves. During the conference call, the staff requested that GPUN provide the NRC with their plans to address prevention of damage to their gate valves that must operate under blowdown conditions by measures such as rounding sharp edges and verifying proper clearances.

During the call, GPUN stated that they had prepared an internal memo that addressed plans for responding to the EPRI information. However, GPUN did not provide the staff with a specific commitment date to complete its actions. In addition, during the conference call, GPUN stated that they only intended to make valve modifications if the valves failed their local leak rate test (LLRT). The staff does not believe that reliance on the LLRT results, alone, is sufficient to determine the need for addressing the blowdown issue.

Handwritten initials/signature

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During the call, GPUN provided examples of where conservatism was used in determining valve factors, stem friction coefficients, and MOV performance characteristics. GPUN believes that, in light of the applied conservatism, it is not necessary for the modifications to be made, unless an applicable valve fails an LLRT. Therefore, we are requesting that GPUN submit additional information concerning conservatism applied and their justification of why it is not necessary to make the modifications.

Within 30 days of the date of this letter, we request that you provide the above information. This requirement affects nine of fewer respondents, and, therefore, is not subject to the Office of Management and Budget review under P.L. No. 96-511.

Sincerely,



Alexander W. Dromerick, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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cc: See next page

M. Roche

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Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Alexander W. Dromerick, Senior Project Manager
Project Directorate I-3
Division of Reactor Projects - I/II
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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M. Roche
GPU Nuclear Corporation

Oyster Creek Nuclear
Generating Station

cc:

Ernest L. Blake, Jr., Esquire
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge
2300 N Street, NW.
Washington, DC 20037

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

BWR Licensing Manager
GPU Nuclear Corporation
1 Upper Pond Road
Parsippany, NJ 07054

Mayor
Lacey Township
818 West Lacey Road
Forked River, NJ 08731

Licensing Manager
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Mail Stop: Site Emergency Bldg.
P.O. Box 388
Forked River, NJ 08731

Resident Inspector
c/o U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 445
Forked River, NJ 08731

Kent Tosch, Chief
New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection
Bureau of Nuclear Engineering
CN 415
Trenton, NJ 08625